



Our Ref.: NCP- GB7 – 015 - SMTA Reporting/MLS

21 October 2016

## NOTIFICATION

### **Reporting on PGRFA transfers with the Standard Material Transfer Agreement and on material available in the Multilateral System**

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Dear Madam/Sir,

The Secretariat of the International Treaty is pleased to remind users of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing that providers of material can continue to report online through Easy-SMTA on all transfers of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture made with the Standard Material Transfer Agreement.

The Easy-SMTA System, available at <http://mls.planttreaty.org>, was launched in 2012 to assist users with:

- compiling and generating SMTAs in the six official languages of the International Treaty;
- reporting on SMTAs concluded in accordance with the guidance given by the Governing Body of the International Treaty.

Easy-SMTA is of voluntary use and offers users practical and secure solutions to improve efficiency, such as the function to conclude online agreements. To date about 3.2 million PGRFA transfers have been reported and the Secretariat of the International Treaty stands ready to assist all users, in particular by collaborating large volume providers of material considering to automate their reporting processes with *ad hoc* synchronization solutions.

We would also like to advise that the Secretariat has compiled and published online, a booklet with the opinions and the advice provided by the *Ad Hoc* Technical Advisory Committee on the Multilateral System and the Standard Material Transfer Agreement, as useful guidance to Contracting Parties and users in implementing their obligations under the Treaty<sup>1</sup>.

Holders of material included in the Multilateral System can also contact the Secretariat to get additional information on how to make available their material through the Global Information System of the Treaty.

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<sup>1</sup> Opinions and advice of the *Ad Hoc* Technical Advisory Committee on the Multilateral System and the Standard Material Transfer Agreement. FAO, 2015. <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4578e.pdf>



As the Secretariat is planning to prepare a new report, with statistics, on material available in the Multilateral System and on transfer of PGRFA in 2017, users are encouraged to report as soon as possible.

We remain at your disposal to provide additional information and respond to any query related to the Multilateral System:

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Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.



Dr Kent Nnadozie  
Ad Interim Secretary  
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources  
for Food and Agriculture